



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2009**

**Grade 6
Reading**

Reading

1 The words aquarium and aquatic are **alike** in meaning because both words relate to

- A. earth.
- B. wind.
- C. water.
- D. sky.

I have six keys on my key ring.

- 2 Which sentence uses the word ring as it is used in the box?
- A. The ring of the doorbell awakened the baby.
 - B. There was a beautiful, shiny ring at the jewelry store.
 - C. The boxer stepped into the ring.
 - D. The ring around the moon predicted rain.

Read this article about the job of an ice-cream taster. Then answer the questions that follow.

One Cool Job

Danielle S. Hammelef

What do you want to be when you grow up? A teacher? A doctor? An astronaut? How about an ice-cream taster?

- 1** Yes, there really is a job that pays you to taste ice cream. Just ask John Harrison, an “Official Taste Tester” at Dreyers/Edy’s Ice Cream for the past 21 years. Testing helps manufacturers to be sure of a product’s quality. During his career Harrison has approved over 200 million gallons of the creamy dessert—as well as developing more than 75 flavors, including cookies and cream.

Harrison jokes that ice cream is so much a part of his life that his blood “runs sixteen percent butterfat.” Four generations of Harrisons have been “in” ice cream, including his great-grandfather, who owned two ice-cream parlors in New York City; his father, who owned a dairy-ingredients factory in Georgia; and his uncle, who owned an ice-cream factory in Tennessee. At his uncle’s factory, Harrison “tasted and ate” his way through high school and college as he learned to make ice cream.

A Day in Dessert

Despite what you might think, there’s more to the job than just liking ice cream, says Harrison, who has a degree in chemistry. He points out that a dairy or food-science degree would be useful to someone wanting a career in this “cool” field.

In a typical morning on the job, Harrison tastes and evaluates 60 ice-cream samples—3 each from the 20 flavor batches produced the previous day. Starting with vanilla and working up to stronger flavors like mint chocolate-chip, he slices open each container.

Then he lets the ice cream warm up to about 12 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature in the storage freezer is -20 degrees. Most people eat ice cream at between 0 and 5 degrees. But cold ice cream can numb the taste buds, Harrison explains, so “You get more flavor from warmer ice cream, which is why some kids like to stir it, creating ice-cream soup.”

Tasting with Your Eyes

- 6** While the ice cream warms up, Harrison looks over the samples and grades each one on appearance. “Tasting begins with the eyes,” he explains. He checks to see if the ice cream is attractive and asks himself, “Does the product have the color expected from that flavor?” If there are added goodies, such as fruit, chocolate chips, nuts, or fudge ribbons, he makes sure that they are evenly spread throughout.

Next it’s time to taste! With his gold-plated spoon, which he uses to avoid the aftertaste plastic or wood can give, Harrison skims the top of the sample, where it’s warmest. Then he turns the spoon upside down and plops the spoonful onto his tongue.

Swirl, Smack and . . .

“I’ve developed a way of tasting called the Three S’s,” he says. “First, I *swirl* the ice cream very quickly around in my mouth, completely coating my taste buds. Then I *smack* my mouth several times very fast to warm up the ice cream even more and to add air, to release the maximum flavor.” While swirling and smacking, he tastes for balance between the cream, the natural flavors, and the sweeteners. He also makes sure that the texture is smooth and creamy, not icy or gummy.

You might expect *swallow* to be the taster’s third *S*. But after three to five seconds of swirling and smacking, Harrison *spits* the sample into a bucket. “That’s the worst part of my job,” he sighs, “spitting out the ice cream.”

The Taste of Success

But that doesn’t mean that Harrison never eats ice cream. To test the aftertaste, he swallows one bite of each new flavor. And when he’s “off-duty,” he eats whatever flavors he chooses—and more than just one bite! Vanilla is his favorite. At home he enjoys making ice cream and swirling goodies into it. “We’re all kids when it comes to ice cream,” he says.

Thinking up new ideas, trying out new flavors, and taste-testing ice-cream samples each day keeps Harrison busy but happy—working at one cool job.

3 In the first paragraph, the word approved means

- A. invented.
- B. accepted.
- C. corrected.
- D. delivered.

4 According to the article, why do companies test their ice cream?

- A. to see how long it takes to freeze ice cream
- B. to find out what kind of ice cream people like
- C. to make sure they have the best kind of ice cream
- D. to compete against other ice-cream manufacturers

5 Harrison's early interest in working with ice cream **most likely** came from his

- A. wanting to create new flavors.
- B. earning a degree in chemistry.
- C. spending time with family members.
- D. thinking about different kinds of fun jobs.

6 Based on the article, eating very cold ice cream causes someone to

- A. add other flavors.
- B. use a stronger spoon.
- C. lose some of the flavor.
- D. take smaller bites.

Read the sentence below and then answer the question that follows.

Despite what you might think, there's more to the job than just liking ice cream.

7 Explain how Harrison shows that this statement is true. Use information from the article to support your answer.

8 In paragraph 6, the word attractive means

- A. simple.
- B. familiar.
- C. pleasing.
- D. original.

9 According to the article, what happens right after Harrison **first** tastes the ice cream?

- A. He swallows the ice cream.
- B. He spits out the ice cream.
- C. He adds another flavor of ice cream to his mouth.
- D. He moves the ice cream around in his mouth.

10 According to the article, which part of Harrison's job does he dislike the **most**?

- A. swirling the ice cream
- B. eating cold ice cream
- C. spitting out the ice cream
- D. testing the ice cream's aftertaste

11 Which section includes information about Harrison's life away from work?

- A. **A Day in Dessert**
- B. **Tasting with Your Eyes**
- C. **Swirl, Smack and. . .**
- D. **The Taste of Success**

12 Explain what makes Harrison a successful ice-cream taster. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

The New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Maine Departments of Education wish to acknowledge and credit the following authors and publishers for use of their work in the reading portion of the *New England Common Assessment Program*—2009.

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**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2009**

**Grade 6
Reading**

**NECAP 2009 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING**

5.2.1 **Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by** using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes and base words; or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries; or prior knowledge)

- ❶ The words aquarium and aquatic are **alike** in meaning because both words relate to
- A. earth.
 - B. wind.
 - C. water.
 - D. sky.

5.3.2 **Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings and relationships by** selecting appropriate words or explaining the use of words in context, including content specific vocabulary, words with multiple meanings, or precise vocabulary

I have six keys on my key ring.

- ❷ Which sentence uses the word ring as it is used in the box?
- A. The ring of the doorbell awakened the baby.
 - B. There was a beautiful, shiny ring at the jewelry store.
 - C. The boxer stepped into the ring.
 - D. The ring around the moon predicted rain.

One Cool Job Informational Text

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- 3 In the first paragraph, the word approved means
- A. invented.
 - B. accepted.
 - C. corrected.
 - D. delivered.

5.7.2 **Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by** using information from the text to answer questions related to main/central ideas or key details

- 4 According to the article, why do companies test their ice cream?
- A. to see how long it takes to freeze ice cream
 - B. to find out what kind of ice cream people like
 - C. to make sure they have the best kind of ice cream
 - D. to compete against other ice-cream manufacturers

One Cool Job Informational Text

5.8.5 Analyze and interpret informational text, citing evidence as appropriate by making inferences about causes or effects

- 5 Harrison's early interest in working with ice cream **most likely** came from his
- A. wanting to create new flavors.
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 - B. use a stronger spoon.
 - C. lose some of the flavor.
 - D. take smaller bites.

One Cool Job Informational Text

5.8.3 Analyze and interpret informational text, citing evidence as appropriate by drawing inferences about text, including author's purpose (e.g., to inform, explain, entertain, persuade) or message; or forming and supporting opinions/judgments and assertions about central ideas that are relevant

Read the sentence below and then answer the question that follows.

Despite what you might think, there's more to the job than just liking ice cream.

- 7** Explain how Harrison shows that this statement is true. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how Harrison shows that this statement is true. Response includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response provides an explanation of how Harrison shows that this statement is true. Response includes some relevant information from the article.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how Harrison shows that this statement is true. Response uses limited information from the article.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Responses will explain that Harrison shows this statement is true by demonstrating how an official taste tester is responsible for ensuring the quality of the ice cream.

- checking the temperature of the ice cream
- examining the appearance of the ice cream
- tasting the ice cream

Information from the article should support these ideas.

SCORE POINT 4

7 Harrison shows that this statement is true because it is true. You have to taste ice cream in different ways you can't just try one flavor all the time. You have to first heat it to about 12 degrees Fahrenheit. You can taste the ice cream better if it is warmer like Harrison does. You have to begin tasting with your eyes meaning you have to observe certain things in the ice cream. Some of the things you might observe are the textures of the ice cream or the chocolate chips or the fudge ribbons. When you do get to the tasting part you have to use the three S's. The first one is swirling which means swirling the ice cream around in your mouth. The second S is smacking which means to repeatedly move your mouth up and down. The last S is spitting and that's the worst part. That is how Harrison's job is not just about liking ice

Response provides a thorough explanation of how Harrison shows that this statement is true. Response includes relevant information from the article.

NECAP 2009 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 3

7 In Harrison's job, he has a lot of fun, but the job still requires work. Everyday he taste tests ice cream. Harrison has a lot of fun tasting but there is a certain method to be followed for every little bite of ice cream. While enjoying the ice-cream Harrison must watch out for gummy textures and ice. Harrison's cool job requires work just like anyones job. He must also use the tasting method called the "Three S's" That is swirling the cream around your mouth. Then smacking it in his mouth quickly, to warm it up and let the flavor out. If Harrison didn't do all this he wouldn't be doing his job.

Response provides an explanation of how Harrison shows that this statement is true. Response includes some relevant information from the article.

NECAP 2009 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 2

- 7 Harrison shows that this statement is true by telling people that he has tasted ice cream for 21 years and approving over two hundred million gallons of creamy dessert. He tells you how he gets the best taste of ice cream. He calls it the three S's. First is the swirl and then the smack and swallow.

Response provides a partial explanation of how Harrison shows that this statement is true. Response uses limited information from the article.

SCORE POINT 1

- 7 Harrison shows it by testing it to make sure its perfect for you. Also, by trying all 20 flavors.

Response is vague or minimal.

NECAP 2009 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 0

7 Well, it's Harrison's opinion that the ice cream taster's a cool job. Some people just don't like ice cream. So basically he's trying to say "You make your own decision."

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

One Cool Job Informational Text

5.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes and base words; or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries; or prior knowledge)

8 In paragraph 6, the word attractive means

- A. simple.
- B. familiar.
- C. pleasing.
- D. original.

5.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to main/central ideas or key details

9 According to the article, what happens right after Harrison **first** tastes the ice cream?

- A. He swallows the ice cream.
- B. He spits out the ice cream.
- C. He adds another flavor of ice cream to his mouth.
- D. He moves the ice cream around in his mouth.

One Cool Job Informational Text

5.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to main/central ideas or key details

- 10** According to the article, which part of Harrison's job does he dislike the **most**?
- A. swirling the ice cream
 - B. eating cold ice cream
 - C. spitting out the ice cream
 - D. testing the ice cream's aftertaste

5.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to main/central ideas or key details

- 11** Which section includes information about Harrison's life away from work?
- A. **A Day in Dessert**
 - B. **Tasting with Your Eyes**
 - C. **Swirl, Smack and. . .**
 - D. **The Taste of Success**

One Cool Job Informational Text

5.8.3 Analyze and interpret informational text, citing evidence as appropriate by drawing inferences about text, including author's purpose (e.g., to inform, explain, entertain, persuade) or message; or forming and supporting opinions/judgments and assertions about central ideas that are relevant

- 12** Explain what makes Harrison a successful ice-cream taster. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of what makes Harrison a successful ice-cream taster. Response includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response provides an explanation of what makes Harrison a successful ice-cream taster. Response includes some relevant information from the article.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of what makes Harrison a successful ice-cream taster. Response uses limited information from the article.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Response will explain that Harrison is a successful ice-cream taster because of his previous experiences with ice cream, his knowledge about ice cream, and his dedication to his work.

Information from the article should support these ideas.

- 12 Harris is a successful ice cream taster. Harris knows there's more than to just liking the ice cream. This shows he thinks about his job. Harris, by the sounds of it, does the same routine every day. Another thing is that Harris knows, that when the ice cream is colder, it can numb taste buds. This is why he warms the ice cream to about 12° F. Harris also takes the time to go over each sample, and grade it. Also he asks himself if it looks after eat. He even looks to see if everything is evenly spread out. Harris is a good ice cream taster because he has come up with the Three S's. First he swirls the ice cream around in his mouth so it covers all his taste buds. Then he smacks his mouth very fast so it gives it that extra boost. Finally he spits it out. Harris has a good way to do things. It runs smoothly. Finally with years of experience, it makes him a better ice cream taster.

Response provides a thorough explanation of what makes Harrison a successful ice-cream taster. Response includes relevant information from the article.

NECAP 2009 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 3

12

There are many things that make John Harrison a successful ice-cream taster. Probably the thing that made him the most successful, is that he's been in the business for twenty-one years. He also helped develop more than seventy-five flavors, including cookies & cream. He also knew a lot about ice cream because of his great-grandfather, grandfather, and his father and uncle. At his uncle's factory, he learned to make ice cream, during high school, and college. He also developed the swirl, smack, and spit, for tasting ice cream. John Harrison is a very successful person when it comes to ice cream tasting.

Response provides an explanation of what makes Harrison a successful ice-cream taster. Response includes some relevant information from the article.

NECAP 2009 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 2
(EXAMPLE A)

12 Harrison is a good ice cream taster because he has been tasting ice cream since he was an teenager! His first ice cream tasting job was at his uncle's ice cream factory in Tennessee. He's also a great ice cream taster because he is very experienced and knows many good ice cream flavors!

Response provides a partial explanation of what makes Harrison a successful ice-cream taster. Response uses limited information from the article.

SCORE POINT 2
(EXAMPLE B)

12 Harrison is a successful ice cream taster because he knows how to taste ice cream. First he swirls ice cream around his mouth to taste the ice cream. Then he smack his mouth to make the ice cream warm up. Finally he spits out the ice cream. These make him a successful ice cream taster.

Response provides a partial explanation of what makes Harrison a successful ice-cream taster. Response uses limited information from the article.

NECAP 2009 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 1

12

Harrison is a successful
tester because hes been testing
for 21 years.

Response is vague or minimal.

SCORE POINT 0

12

Ice cream must be real easy you have
to do is taste ice cream taste. I wish I
was an ice cream taster. Ice cream tasting
is real easy. Bye!

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

Grade 6 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	WV	II	IA	IA	IA	WV	II	II	II	IA
GLE Code	5-2	5-3	5-2	5-7	5-8	5-8	5-8	5-2	5-7	5-7	5-7	5-8
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	C	B	B	C	C	C		C	D	C	D	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response